

## Session 3. Institutionalization of Peace

# Significance and Main Contents of the DPCW

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To all the family members of peace around the world, it is a pleasure to meet you all. I am Kyu Sun Lee, the Director General of Peace Education of IWPG Headquarters. It is an honor to be with everyone today on this precious day.

When I received the opportunity to give this speech today, I thought a lot about what I should discuss. But, before I continue, let me briefly introduce myself. I am a mother to a son. If my country goes to war, my son is obligated to put on his military uniform and go to the battlefield. Although South Korea seems like a peaceful country, it is still technically in a state of cease fire. So, all adult male citizens are obligated to serve in the military and, there is no exception for my son. As a mother there is nothing more dreadful than having my son go to war with a murder weapon. There may even be some who experienced such horrendous situations firsthand sitting here today with us. Even with the recent Russo-Ukrainian war, everyday lives were abruptly destroyed, and young people were sent to the battlefield where they stood at the crossroads of life and death. Young men who lived ordinary lives are suddenly holding guns and pushed into harm's way the very next day. Just like that, countless young people go to the battlefield and disappear like dew. Every time I hear news regarding war, I would think of the worst-case scenario, which is my own son being sent to the frontlines. Then, I would make a determination to accomplish world peace for the sake of my children and for the sake of this world.

So, as a person in charge of peace education, I have come to realize the necessity of institutionalizing peace to ensure that peace education transcends the current generation and endures for generations to come. Through this process, I became interested in the groundbreaking Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War, known as, the DPCW. The reason for my interest was that to build peace, substantial and binding measures are essential, and the DPCW offers guidance and objectives in this regard. If women around the world become aware of the existence, content, and significance of the DPCW, we can work together to end war and achieve world of peace, which we all desire. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the DPCW and unite all our hearts as one.

The DPCW was established through the efforts of the HWPL International Law Peace Committee, composed of international law experts, and was proclaimed on March 14th, 2016. This declaration consists of 10 articles with 38 clauses, and we can categorize the 10 articles into two parts: roles and the content. Articles 1 to 7 and Articles 8 to 10 are categorized as roles. The first half of the declaration, which are Articles 1 to 7, addresses the roles of states, and the second half, Articles 8 to 10, emphasizes the participation of not only the states, but also the roles of all communities made up of individuals for the development of peace.

Next, is the content that is categorized into three parts. Articles 1 to 5 present methods for preventing conflict, Articles 6 to 7 offers dispute settlement and mediation when conflict arises, and Articles 8 to 10 presents ways to end conflict and establish and maintain peace. Now, what part of this declaration should we focus on?

We must first realize that those responsible for peace are not only the states, but it is also individuals from different backgrounds. Those who initiate conflicts and wars can be individuals, non-state organizations, or states. In an increasingly diverse international society, the influence of individuals and groups continues to grow. Building a peaceful world is this era's project that requires all of our cooperation. The DPCW focuses on this point and highlights the efforts of civil society and the influence of the culture of peace in addition to national efforts. This truth reminds us that peace can start from individuals. As members of the international community, women have the power to create significant ripples through our personal changes and actions. We shape, enjoy, inherit, and pass down culture. The way I think, the things I seek, and the actions I take become history for future generations. I believe everyone here is already aware of this. Even in a family, that is like a small society, we have a great impact on one another.

Furthermore, the DPCW advocates for a world governed by the principles of law. We all are aware of how important this truth is. As an educator myself, there were countless times where I felt the importance of teaching the spirit and virtue of becoming a member in a peaceful society in order to achieve a world without conflicts or disputes. When we think military force can be used to resolve issues, violence and war breaks out. We have created the principle of law to prevent the reckless abuse of force; and to achieve the most rational and fair agreement, we need to consider and declare better values, better laws, and regulations. The DPCW encompasses the fundamental values found in various documents, such as the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and international agreements. It highlights values like peaceful coexistence, tolerance, and mutual respect. The DPCW explicitly outlines numerous clauses to foster an understanding and respect for diversity in our international society, and it sets the background for principles that all must pursue and uphold.

Therefore, if the DPCW were to become a legally binding instrument, it would serve as a cornerstone and a new order for constructing a world of peace.

We are joined by women from diverse countries and backgrounds for today's conference. And there is a need for all of us to take interest and support this declaration. If no one had paid attention to and supported the Universal Declaration of Human Rights when it was proclaimed, human rights might have progressed at a much slower pace, and human dignity and rights could have been disregarded. The same applies to the DPCW. If we do not take an interest in what the DPCW conveys, its underlying values, and the efforts required to institutionalize it, a world without war will remain distant.

IWPG is currently carrying out numerous projects based on the spirit of peace that is in the DPCW, and IWPG is actively advocating for the DPCW to be presented as a legally binding international law. We must realize and establish permanent peace. To achieve this, I hope that everyone will show interest in the DPCW and join us in supporting it. Let us work together to secure a future where our beloved children and families are protected from war. Let us achieve not just achieve peace that is fleeting but one that is everlasting.

Thank you.

